

Waste Management

Transportation Management

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) transports a variety of materials throughout its complex on a daily basis, including hazardous material. The safe transport of these materials is a complicated process that involves considerable planning and effective management. The DOE Nevada Operations Office (DOE/NV) contributes to the overall DOE mission by overseeing shipments of radioactive waste that are sent to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) for storage or disposal. The DOE/NV follows the same regulatory guidance as DOE Headquarters (DOE/HQ), which requires the following:

- Development of a management team to assess program needs, which include: material handling and packaging; operations logistics; environment, safety, and health; and emergency preparedness.
- Characterization of the material in question, which is the key step in determining the regulatory requirements for packaging and shipment.
- Analysis and documentation of the potential environmental impacts by ensuring that environmental documentation related to the proposed activity is adequate and current.
- Identification and subsequent involvement of interested and affected parties, including other DOE offices.
- Determination of the need for, and the scope of, a transportation plan.

Planning

Transportation planning focuses on the handling, packaging, and transport of the material through a system of sequential steps resulting in the safe, economical, efficient, and secure transportation of a specific material to a destination. Plans typically contain organizational responsibilities

that start with DOE/HQ and proceed down to the DOE field offices, including the DOE/NV. Other interested parties represent the state, tribes, local governments, and stakeholders. Specific campaign plans may contain shipment schedules, route maps, emergency plans and contacts, communication strategies, package recovery plans, and packaging information. Adherence is maintained to applicable rules and regulations for transportation planning, including U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) statutes and regulations; other federal, state, tribal, and local rules and regulations; and numerous DOE orders, policies, and procedures.



Waste en route to the Nevada Test Site

Risk

Assessment

Transportation carriers choose routes that minimize radiological risk. A variety of data on a transportation route is considered, including information on accident rates, transit time, population density and activities, and the day and time during which transport will occur.



Worker conducts a radiation inspection



Emergency Management

DOE transportation personnel have emergency management responsibilities and maintain a commitment to stakeholders to carry out the following:

- Address emergency preparedness requirements in the early stages of transportation planning.
- Interact with the emergency response community as well as key stakeholders, state and local governments, and tribal representatives about DOE shipments of high-level radioactive material.
- Provide transportation carriers with technical assistance.
- Support the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP), which provides resources in response to requests for technical advice or assistance from other federal agencies, states, tribes, or local governments.
- Provide the emergency response information required on shipping papers.

Stakeholder Involvement

The transportation management process involves stakeholders in these ways:

- Coordinates with interested stakeholders, including government representatives, officials with regulatory enforcement or public safety responsibilities, public information officers, the media, and educational groups.

- Works with established groups, such as the Community Advisory Board and the Transportation Protocol Working Group. The latter group was established to enhance two-way communication among DOE, local, and county personnel.
- Disseminates materials to educate and inform stakeholders.



A DOE/NV representative briefs the Community Advisory Board and the public on routing issues



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